

Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology, University of Sussex

SPORT CULTURES: CAPTURING SPORT IN A GLOBALISED WORLD



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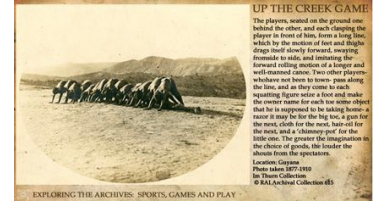
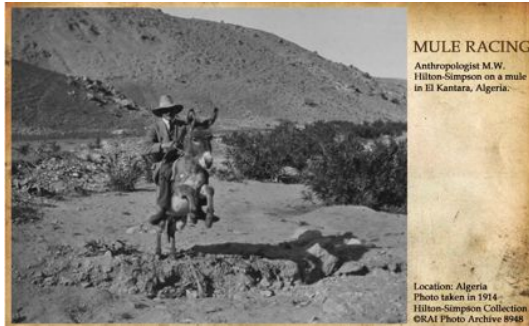


Presentations at this RAI/ESRC Festival of Social Science Event explored the human and cultural side of sport in relation to the body, identity and globalisation. Through presentations, exhibitions and hands-on learning activities, participants were given a greater understanding of the meaning of sport within society and its impact on the lives of communities around the world.

Here is one participant's description of the day:

"As a triathlete there were several presentations during the day that were of particular interest to me. As a runner, I was keen to see the item on the perceptions of participants in the Brighton marathon, and being a swimmer, I wanted to find out more about the Brighton swimming club. Had there been an item on cycling as well then I would have felt complete.

Overall, the contributions were of a very high standard and I was particularly interested by the presentations on the Paralympics by Jill Le Clair and Ian Britain which gave excellent insights into both the development of this aspect of sport and an indication of how participants feel they are perceived by outsiders to their sport. Jon Mitchell's presentation on the Brighton marathon was refreshingly different both visually



and aurally and delivered from the point of view of a competitor. The discussion on motivation was interesting since it questioned the link between participation and giving to charity.

The accompanying exhibition was fascinating and complemented the presentations well. Being grounded in the physical sciences, I found the day really refreshing and it made me want to find out more about anthropology" (Peter Barnes is a Science teacher at Hailsham Community College)



Bionetworking in Asia - Margaret Sleeboom-Faulkner

The international project 'Bionetworking in Asia', an ESRC-funded 3-year project worth over £1.1 million, had its inaugural meeting in December. The research team, based in the Department, includes researchers from China, India, Japan, Thailand, and Europe. The project is studying transnational collaboration in the life sciences.

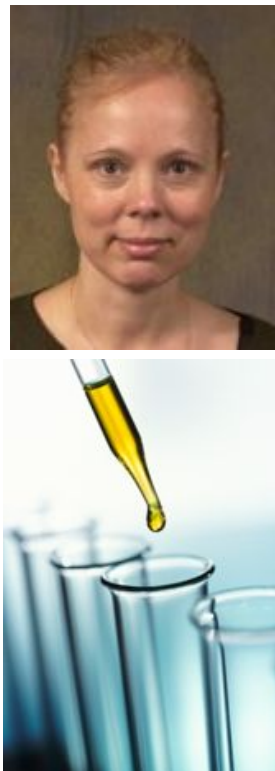
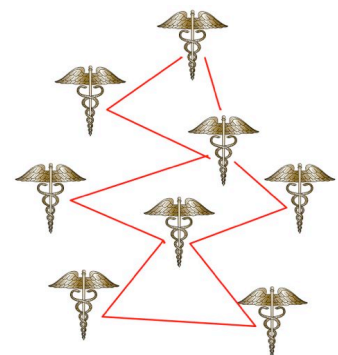
Building on observations of scientists, managers and patients, the project will look at bio-medical innovation and specifically at the way in which much contemporary research is increasingly reliant on clinical research conducted through international collaborations with Asian countries. It will consider in particular how such initiatives are challenged by uncertainties about research quality and therapeutic practices as well as the variation between different states in their healthcare provision and socio-political regimes.

Profit-motivated networks in the life sciences also occur underground and at an informal, unregulated level, which we call bionetworking. Bionetworking is a social entrepreneurial activity involving biomedical research, healthcare and patient networks that are maintained by utilising regionally differences in levels of science and technology, healthcare, education and regulatory regimes.

Examining the growing number of international science collaborations in the fields of experimental stem cell therapies and biobanking in Asia, the project is asking the following questions: How does bionetworking challenge or facilitate international life science collaborations that are to support public health targets of different countries? How can knowledge of these informal patient-, research- and hospital networks be translated into improved guidance for research collaboration, patient

support and policy guidelines?

Over the next three years, we need to find answers to these questions and formulate plans that accommodate the interests of the people that life science research funding is meant for. Apart from fieldwork in Asia and the UK, these efforts include the organisation of regional workshops, a lecture series, the formulation of briefings and recommendations, and other ways to involve both lay people and experts on this controversial subject.





Sri Lanka's Killing Fields

A film and talk by Sussex Alumni Benjamin Dix



On the 2nd November 2011 Benjamin Dix gave a photo-led presentation about civilian life and the humanitarian emergency in the Tamil Tiger held area of North Sri Lanka for the Anthropology Society. Benjamin worked as the Liaison Manager for the United Nations in the Tiger held area from 2004 until the UN evacuation, due to the rising conflict, in September 2008.

After the presentation Benjamin screened the Channel 4 documentary Sri Lanka's Killing Fields which he helped to research and gave his personal testimony of the UN evacuation. The film is a shocking and graphic glimpse inside the recent conflict that was fought without international witness. The

footage is mostly captured on mobile phones and small cameras by civilians sheltering from the violent onslaught of artillery and air attacks in hospitals and bunkers and also from the perpetrators of executions and sexual assaults as 'trophy' videos.

The feedback and Q&A after the presentation and film was very encouraging and a number of students met afterwards to begin a society to advocate on behalf of Sri Lankan Tamil asylum-seekers in the UK. They subsequently formed the student-led society, Call for Humanity, that has been set up to follow any human rights issues which students are interested in pursuing (details via Niru nk238@sussex.ac.uk).

Benjamin completed his MA in Anthropology of Conflict, Violence and Conciliation at Sussex in 2011. He has now begun a unique DPhil programme through the Sussex Anthropology Department where he is writing the narrative for and directing an illustrator to create a graphic novel about the Sri Lankan conflict as 50% of the degree. He will also write a shorter thesis that reflects upon the methodologies of creating the book whilst conducting ethnographic fieldwork amongst Sri Lankan refugees, alongside a critical analysis of graphic novels and related media on the subject of conflict with supervision from Raminder Kaur (Anthropology) and Michael Collyer (Geography).

The film can be viewed on YouTube at: <http://www.channel4.com/programmes/sri-lankas-killing-fields>

London Anthropology Day



Anne-Meike Fechter and Evan Killick represented the department at the 2011 London Anthropology Day, an annual University taster day for students run by the Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI) and held at the British Museum.

The aim of the day is to promote Anthropology to students who have not otherwise come across the subject, and

who might be interested in studying it at University.

Sussex's contribution was a workshop on Bodies and Performances in which participants were encouraged to examine contrasting cultural ideals of beauty. The workshop also considered practices such as piercing, scarring, masking, and wearing clothes, and how these are linked to

expressions of difference in individual, ethnic, religious, or gendered identities.

After a brief introduction participants ventured into the space of the British Museum itself to gather examples from past and contemporary peoples, which then formed the basis of a group discussion.



Realising Global Rights to Health



India, unlike most other countries in the global South, has experienced a rapid shift over the past two decades from coercive, population-based, health programmes, to rights-based ones. State and non-state organisations have been at the forefront of this change.

This study, based at Sussex and led by Maya Unnithan, focused on Rajasthan, an Indian state with amongst the worst reproductive and child health indicators in the country. The study tracked the transmission of rights ideas and practices trans-nationally and through to local recipients and has produced an analysis of how rights operate within different discursive spaces. The fieldwork focus has been on rights discourse and practice at three sites: civil society organisations (health related and legal), the private health sector and the state.

Key findings:

The role and character of CSOs is shifting with an increasing contribution to legislation and policy but less on-the-ground involvement with the delivery of health services. Their work continues to be significant in mobilising communities around health issues through promoting democratic processes which ensure accountability through social audits and public hearings.

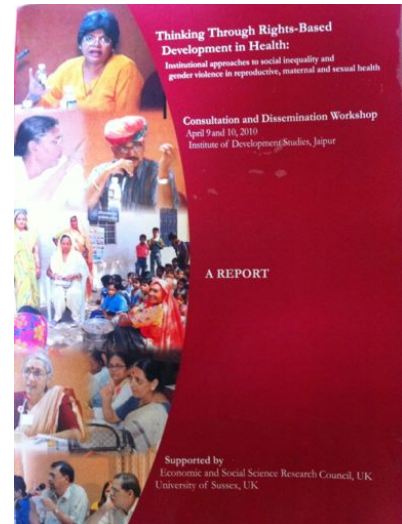
Rights based development programmes such as the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) demonstrate a shift in civil society-state partnerships in India whereby CSOs are constrained from effecting change independently of the state.

Human rights concepts and language however also function as effective instruments for CSOs to maintain their critical position vis-à-vis the state, demanding accountability and transparency in the functioning of health budgets and in demanding access to universal health care and generic medicines.

Moreover, the project also documents the way in which legal activists working in the field of reproductive rights in India are creatively drawing upon and strengthening legal processes such as in public interest

litigation and integrating the rights framework into their work.

The research was carried out by Maya Unnithan, Carolyn Heitmeyer, Pradeep Kacchawa, Sumi Madhok & Manju Sharma and was funded by a standard grant by the Economic and Social Research Council (RES-062-23-1609.). It was conducted from July 2009 until December 2011.



A report produced by the project is available on the departmental website.

Hot off the Press!



Andrea Cornwall (ed.) *The Participation Reader*. London: Zed Books.

Calls for greater participation of those affected by development interventions have a long history. This expert reader explores the conceptual and methodological dimensions of participatory research and the politics and practice of participation in development. Through excerpts from the texts that have inspired contemporary advocates of participation, accounts of the principles of participatory research and empirical studies that show

some of the complexities of participation in practice, it offers a range of reflections on participation that will be of interest to those new to the field and experienced practitioners alike. Bringing together for the first time classic and contemporary writings from a literature that spans a century, it offers a unique perspective on the possibilities and dilemmas that face those seeking to enable those affected by development projects, programmes and policies.



Dinah Rajak. *In Good Company - An Anatomy of Corporate Social Responsibility*. Stanford University Press.

Under the banner of corporate social responsibility (CSR), corporations have become increasingly important players in international development. These days, CSR's union of economics and ethics is virtually unquestioned as an antidote to harsh neoliberal reforms and the delinquency of the state, but nothing is straightforward about this apparently win-win formula. Chronicling transnational mining corporation Anglo American's pursuit of CSR, *In Good Company* explores what lies behind the movement's marriage of moral imperative and market discipline.

From the company's global headquarters to its mineshafts in South Africa, Dinah reveals how CSR enables the corporation to accumulate and exercise power. Interested in CSR's vision of social improvement, Dinah highlights the dependency that the practice generates. This close examination of Africa's largest private sector employer not only brings critical attention to the dangers of corporate dominance, but also provides a lens through which to reflect on the wider global CSR movement.



Congratulations to Alice Street and Jamie Cross on the birth of a baby son!

Dispatch from the Field

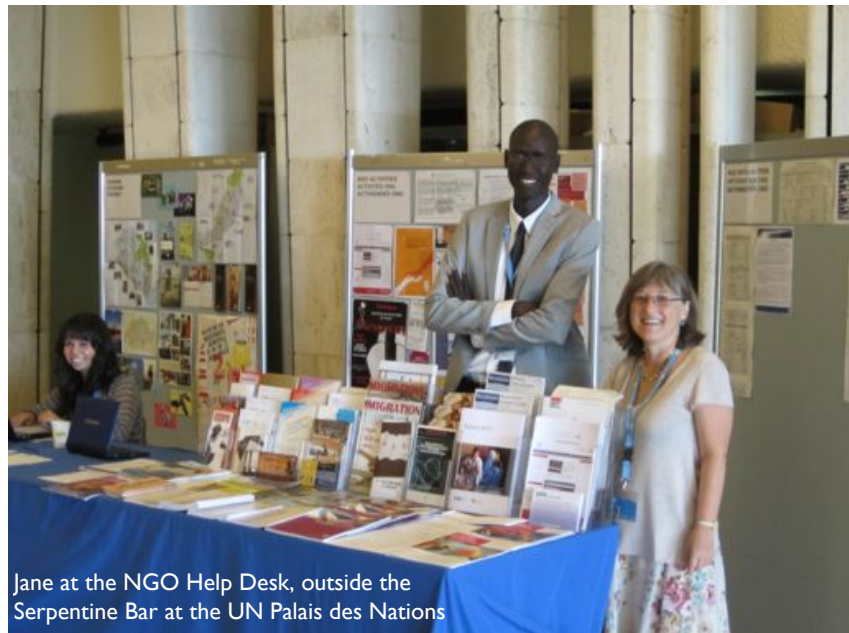
8:45 on a crisp November morning, Julie Billaud, my research assistant, and I are standing in a queue marked "UPR" just outside the Pregny Gate entrance to the United Nations complex in Geneva. We have arrived well in advance of the 10 a.m. start of the 9th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a two-week round of half-day reviews of the human rights situations in 16 countries. We are queuing to obtain the precious badge that will allow us to enter the glass-enclosed "public gallery", peer down at the diplomats, NGOs and Secretariat staff, and listen through headphones to the proceedings, translated simultaneously into six official UN languages. The wait is long: a security guard controls entry through the glass doors to the x-ray machine, and beyond this, to the counter where half a dozen morose desk staff methodically register each entrant and bestow a badge.

Next to us in the queue, an elegant 40ish woman, her bouffant blonde chignon loosely covered with a multicoloured headscarf, asks if I am French and when I say, "American", she volunteers her enthusiasm for Los Angeles, her home of several years. I mention that we are here to observe the UPR. "Whose side are you on?" she asks. We laugh, surprised. "Nobody's side". We learn that she represents an Iranian NGO.

Her question intrigues us. The UPR was launched in 2008, as part of the reform of the UN Human Rights Commission that, according to critics, became "politicised", condemning human rights violations too selectively. UPR is supposed to be carried out "in an objective, transparent, non-selective, constructive, non-confrontational and non-politicised manner" to ensure "universal coverage and equal treatment of all states". States delivering 2-minute comments in the "Interactive Dialogue" are meant to "share best practice",

offering constructive "recommendations" on how to "improve the human rights situation on the ground". It is rarely so straightforward. As a concession to greater transparency, reviews are now webcast, then archived and the three key reports downloadable. For the states making comments, UPR often elicits a performance of solidarity or challenge. Diplomats may arrive at 4 a.m. or even sleep in their cars in order to ensure a place at the front of the queue outside the meeting room for their slot on the Speaker's List. For the State-Under-Review (SUR), the UPR can feel like an exam.

lawsuit with Caterpillar. From a packed public gallery the next morning, I see the cousin, watching intently from the NGO section, as a rainbow delegation speaks with pride of the USA's "leadership role" in bringing human rights to the world. Business and human rights violations are not mentioned. First on the Speaker's List, the feisty Cuban ambassador lambasts the US for Guantanamo, the embargo, the death penalty; pugnacious Venezuela and Iran follow. US State Department Counsel Harold Koh remains defiant. At the review's end, the verdict is mixed: "A model UPR", enthuses one OHCHR



Jane at the NGO Help Desk, outside the Serpentine Bar at the UN Palais des Nations

The day before the US review, coalitions of NGOs organise "side-events" during the lunch break. At a session on "Human Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility", I hear the lawyer and a cousin of Rachel Corrie, crushed to death protecting a Palestinian house by a Caterpillar tractor used by the Israeli Defense Force, talk about the family's

director. "Where's Hillary?" snipes a Latin American diplomat. In the afternoon, we attend a side-event with Julian Assange speaking on the Wikileaks revelations of US war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan. The event is sponsored by an Iranian NGO; our blonde friend greets us at the door.

Jane Cowan's current research on the Universal Periodic Review is funded by the British Academy.

Sussex Anthropology: Who We Are



Sussex Anthropology is a vibrant community of students, teachers, and researchers with a strong commitment to an

engaged anthropology that addresses contemporary social and political problems.

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